Buying of polished diamonds for the crown of the deity at Tirupati

1090. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team from India had at any time gone to Antwerp to buy polished diamonds for the crown of the deity at Triupati;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Hindustan Diamond Company was a member of that team;

(c) whether any commission was paid to any member of the team; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Murder of a journalist at Kalimpong by Gorkha extremists

1091. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any letter dated April 15, 1988 addressed to the Prime Minister from West Bengal Union of Journalists about the murder of Mr. Nirmal Rai, a journalist at Kalimpong on April 11, 1988 by the Gorkha extremists;

(b) whether Government are also aware that since then the two brothers of the deceased who went to the extremists' hideout in search of their brother are also missing; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A communication on the subject has been received in the Prime Minister's Office.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Joint patrolling on Indo-Pak border

1092. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Border Security Force and the Pakistani Rangers have taken up joint patrolling on the Indo-Pak border along Punjab and Rajasthan from 1st July, 1989; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to start joint patrolling in other sectors also; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The BSF and Pak Rangers have taken up simultaneous coordinated patrolling on the Indo-Pak border along Punjab and Rajasthan from 1st July, 1989. Both sides will send an agreed number of patrols on each day and will cover areas identified by the two Forces. The detailed programmes for simultaneous coordinated patrolling will be jointly worked out by the Battalion Commandant of BSF and Wing Commanders of Pak Rangers on

a fortnightly basis. The patrol will be briefed and de-briefed jointly by the concerned Coy. Commanders. The progress will be reviewed from time to time.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Discussions between the representatives of De Beers and Chairman Hindustan Diamond Company Limited

1093. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three directors of the South African company, De Beers came to Bombay in the latter half of 1988;

(b) whether they held any discussion with the Chairman of the Hindustan Diamond Company Limited Bombay; and

(c) if so, what was the nature of these discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Hindustan Diamond Company Ltd., have reported that there is no information about the visit of three Directors of South African Company, De Beers, to Bombay during 1988.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Effect of Sale of 25 per cent products by 100 per cent export oriented units in domestic market on domestic industry

1094. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government take into consideration the effect on the domestic industry, while allowing 100 per cent export oriented units to sell 25 per cent of the production in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to protect the domestic industry, the facility is accorded on a case by case basis upto 25 per cent of the production and subject to the payment of appropriate Customs and other duties.

Discriminatory increase in prices of rough diamonds

1095. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South African company, De Beers which distributes rough diamonds through its subsidiaries in London has imposed from March, 1989 a highly discriminatory increase in the prices of roughs of the varieties purchased by the Indian diamond cutting industry;

(b) whether Government have protested against such discriminatory price rise and unfair trade practice which is likely to hurt the Indian industry; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent such discriminatory increase in the prices of rough diamonds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The Central Selling Organisation, London, had announced in March, 1989 price increase for the rough diamonds by an average of 15.5 per cent. However, the actual impact of the price increase differed for different qualities and